



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>

3 3433 08239208 9

Henry Goddard Thomas.



0-5

1. Name

Shm 115

LIBRARY		710
of the		
Eugenics Record Office		
Cold Spring Harbor,	Long Island	
This Book was acquired by <u>Purchase 10 x</u>		
from	<u>Bridgman & Lyman</u>	
of	<u>Northampton, Mass.</u>	
	<u>Sept. 18. 1917</u>	Date

J&G

25

11/11/11
G. S. V. L.

HENRY GODDARD THOMAS



W. H. Thomas

**General Henry Goddard
Thomas**

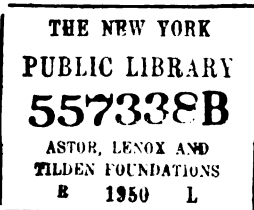
1837 - 1897

Memorial

Portland, Maine

1898

EXF



MEMOIR

THE LAKESIDE PRESS
PORTLAND, ME.

HENRY GODDARD THOMAS, the eldest son of William Widgery and Elizabeth White Goddard Thomas, was born in Portland, Maine, April 5, 1837. He came of sturdy New England stock, tracing back on his father's side to Isaiah Thomas, publisher of the first Bible in New England, and William Widgery, Judge and Member of Congress; and on his mother's side descended from Timothy Pickering, president of the war board in Revolutionary times, Secretary of State and Postmaster General in Washington's administration, and General in the Revolutionary War, and Dr. John Goddard of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, who bore the unique distinction, as Charles Sumner once said, of being the only man who having been duly elected to the United States Senate absolutely would not go.

As a boy he attended Master Jackson's and later Master Libby's schools in Portland.

He entered Bowdoin and was a member of the Theta Delta Chi Fraternity of that College. His final two years of college life were spent at Amherst, where he was graduated in 1858, receiving the degree of A. B. In July, 1865, he was unanimously elected an honorary

member of the Phi Beta Kappa Fraternity of Amherst College, and at the same time received the degree of A. M. At Bowdoin the degree of A. B. *ad eundem* was conferred upon him in 1894.

At the age of twenty-one the sub-committee of the Portland High School came to him and offered him the place of First Assistant. He declined, saying he had never taught. Upon being told that discipline was the present, urgent need, he accepted the position.

He read law, 1859-61, in the offices of Judge Edward Fox and of Josiah H. Drummond, Esq., and was admitted to the Cumberland bar at Portland, Maine; also, later, to the Oklahoma bar, Oklahoma Territory.

At the breaking out of the Rebellion, 1861, young Thomas, then twenty-four years of age, volunteered for the defense of the Union, raised a company and entered the war, as Captain, Company G, Fifth Maine Volunteers. He first "smelled powder" at Bull Run. His Colonel, Mark H. Dunnell, afterward member of Congress from Minnesota, said of him: "Captain Thomas exhibited a coolness and courage not surpassed by any other on the field."

Gen. O. O. Howard, commander of brigade, endorses this. "On the day of battle," he said, "I found you working hard to rally a broken line." From this and other recommendations Captain Thomas was appointed a

Captain in the United States Army, August 5, 1861; having been mustered out, as Captain of the Fifth Maine, August 26, 1861. During the remainder of that year and the following year he was engaged in recruiting service and as mustering officer.

By the recommendation of Governor Andrew he was nominated by Brig.-Gen. Daniel Ullman, February 26, 1863, as Colonel of one of the regiments of colored troops which General Ullman was authorized to raise. The nomination was approved by the Secretary of War, March 4, 1863, and on March 20, 1863, Captain Thomas was mustered into service as Colonel of the colored regiment then or subsequently known as the Second Regiment U. S. Volunteers, which was later designated as the Seventh Infantry, Corps d'Afrique, and finally became the Seventy-ninth U. S. Colored Troops. He was the first regular officer to accept a colored regiment.

In Louisiana he contracted malarial fever which developed first into a gastric and afterward a typhoid fever. His youth and fine constitution enabled him to take the field again with his company, the Eleventh U. S. Infantry, serving with them through the campaign of 1863, and being present in action at Snicker's Gap, Bristol, Rappahannock, Brandy Wine and Mine Run.

In the winter of 1863-64 he was again

appointed Colonel, this time of the Nineteenth U. S. Colored Troops. After raising his regiment in Maryland he was placed in command of Camp Birney, near Baltimore, the largest post in the Middle Department, consisting of nearly three thousand men. He joined General Burnside April 18th, and May 3d was assigned to command the Second Brigade, Fourth Division, Ninth Corps. This brigade was composed entirely of raw, colored troops. He was obliged to take his staff from captains and lieutenants of the brigade; not one had served on staff before, and but one had ever been a commissioned officer. At starting, the brigade numbered but thirteen hundred men; later on, even in spite of heavy losses, it increased to about four thousand, as almost every week brought a large number of recruits, and constant work was required to drill and discipline this new material.

Taking the field (Army of the Potomac) at the head of three regiments at the commencement of hostilities in April, 1864, he took part in all the battles of his command,—the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Petersburg, Explosion of the Mine, Weldon Railroad, Hatcher's Run, Va.,—to the taking of Richmond, when he was assigned to the only separate command, that of Manchester, Virginia, where he extinguished the fires set by their own people and saved millions of property; saved

the mills, operated them and fed the people. He was transferred to the Army of the James, Twenty-fifth Corps, about New Year's, 1865, and commanded the First Division of that corps for a short period, as also the corps temporarily in the absence of General Weitzel.

General Thomas was made Brigadier-General December 9, 1864, at the age of twenty-seven. In recommending him General Burnside says: "His uniform good conduct, particularly his *conspicuous gallantry* before Petersburg, July 30th, entitle him to the favorable consideration of the department." General Weitzel, taking leave of him at the close of the war, says: "His brigade is and always has been one of the finest in my corps." Gen. Benjamin F. Butler, recommending him for Colonel (regular) at the close of the war, says: "His record as a true-hearted and attentive officer stands among the highest on every report of action or inspection."

Upon one occasion, during mustering and disbursing duty in Boston in the winter of 1861-62, when General Thomas was alone in the office, all others being off on duty, Governor Andrew sent his adjutant-general, and finally came himself, to say that two regiments which were in camp, one some twelve miles from Boston, the other further and in an opposite direction, were losing their men every hour, and they feared that under cover of the night so many might slip away that

there might not be enough to muster a regiment. The General, then a youth of twenty-four, arranged with the Governor to have relays of horses in each direction and a driver who would dare force them at a gallop over the roads. He rode over fifty miles that night at break-neck speed, mustered his two regiments, and at 10 A.M., without having tasted food, awaited the Governor with the muster-rolls, extended and finished. This made Governor Andrew his friend—a friendship that lasted while Governor Andrew lived.

In January, 1865, after being moved from the Army of the Potomac to that of the James, he found on his line that the enemy had captured a salient point which they had turned into a veritable bloody angle. One evening, personally heading four picked companies, he re-took the lost ground. General Butler hearing of this sent for him and had the matter minutely explained. Prior to these exciting episodes, arrangements had been made for the reception of Mrs. Thomas at camp, of which fact General Butler was aware. After disposing of military matters General Butler addressed General Thomas as follows: "I thought your wife was coming."

GENERAL THOMAS—"She is."

GENERAL BUTLER—"When?"

GENERAL THOMAS—"Friday."

GENERAL BUTLER—"Well, then, it's time you were off."

GENERAL THOMAS—"But my quartermaster goes in my place."

GENERAL BUTLER—"Why?"

GENERAL THOMAS—"Because I want to get that broken line across to suit me."

GENERAL BUTLER—"And what about meeting your wife?"

GENERAL THOMAS—"Anybody can safely escort Mrs. Thomas, but no one has quite the interest I have to fix that revetment. I took it in person, and the Lord willing I'm going to hold it."

GENERAL BUTLER—"What's your quartermaster's name?"

GENERAL THOMAS—"Captain S. Appington."

GENERAL BUTLER—(writing in his notebook, tearing out a leaf and giving it to General Thomas) "Very well, give him that."

This proved to be an order on the captain of his despatch boat to transport the captain and the lady in his charge and show them every attention. In this way they escaped the dirty, over-crowded, regular boats, with all sorts of such hard characters on board as follow in the wake of a great army. It is needless, perhaps, to add after that that General Thomas was set down as one of Butler's favorites.

Soon after the close of the war he was appointed Major Forty-first Infantry and declined it, because his medical advisers held that a return to the extreme South in his case would bring death or permanent invalidism.

General Thomas's subsequent army life was as follows: Portland, Maine, October, 1866, to September, 1867; Fort Wood, from September, 1867, to expiration of detail; Freedmen's Bureau in Kentucky and Virginia to spring of 1869; joined regiment at St. Paul, serving at Fort Snelling, Fort Totten, D. T.; at Fort Ransom, D. T., in command of troops protecting construction of Northern Pacific Railroad from Cheyenne River to Missouri River, 1872; stationed at Fort Snelling, from October, 1872, to the spring of 1876; removed Wennebago Indians from Wisconsin, winter of 1874-75; on duty with government exhibits at Philadelphia Centennial, 1876; at Fort Fred Steel, Wyoming, until the fall of 1878; promoted to be Major Fourth U. S. Infantry in 1876, and in 1878 transferred to the Pay Corps, stationed successively at Omaha, Fort Sidney, Omaha, Fort Buford, D. T., Pueblo and Denver; and on sick leave dating from March 7, 1884.

After more than thirty years of army service, nineteen of them on the Frontier among the Indians, and four full years in the war, his health failed so that he could no longer

stand the strain of active service, and at his own request he was retired, July 2, 1891.

Reference has been made to General Thomas's literary tastes. His love of music was very marked. He made quite a study of its technical difficulties and played upon the piano with expression and skill. He was fond of yachting, driving and horseback; and of travel, mingling a keen study of human nature with a genuine love of architecture and fine works of art.

In quotation he was quick and ready, the right phrase springing instantly to his lips, for he was a good scholar and memorized remarkably well. Naturally this quick wit and fondness for books set his own pen in action. He had a literary style of a rather rare distinction — epigrammatic, spirited and keen. As illustrations of his ability as a writer, one might quote from an exceedingly accurate and interesting chapter which he contributed to his brother's book, "Sweden and the Swedes," entitled "The King and His Men." It gives an excellent idea of the military manœuvres of the army at the biennial grand encampment, with accounts of the mock charges and encounters reproduced with a noteworthy verve and originality.

The same graphic force and clear-cut literary style are prominent in his "Century War Series" contribution on the colored troops at

Petersburg. The fearful assault and charge into the crater, following the mine explosion, is given with great vigor, and the recital has the unmistakable story teller's art where General Thomas writes out the bars of music to

" We-e looks like me-en a-a-marchin' on,
We looks li-ike men-er-war."

Or again where he describes some of his men, in the midst of bloodshed and slaughter, spell-bound by the heroic action of young Lieutenant Pennell, "this superb boy," he says, "who was an only child of an old Massachusetts clergyman, and to me as Jonathan to David." A characteristic production also is his "Twenty-two Hours' Prisoner of War in Dixie," given at a meeting of the Loyal Legion and recently published by them, where a wonderfully powerful description of the battlefield strewn with the dead introduces his recital, merging into a most realistic and thrilling account of his entry by mistake into the rebel camp and of how he fared in the enemy's midst. Here again unity, strong construction and the use of climax mark the natural raconteur and writer—the man who can tell a story or can equally well deliver it by the stroke of an effective pen.

Upon the occasions of General Thomas's various promotions many especially interesting, commendatory letters were forthcom-

ing; from the officers and men of the Colored Troops (though at this time General Thomas had resigned the Colonelcy of the Nineteenth U. S. Colored Troops); from Governor Andrew, endorsing these requests; from William Pitt Fessenden, Governors Coburn, Washburn and Cony, Senators Morrill and Hamlin, General Burnside, Major Casey and Major Gordon, Colonel Dunnell, Colonel Howard and others.

Governor Andrew writes to Secretary Stanton, November 6, 1864, as follows:

"I have the honor to join in the recommendations of Col. H. G. Thomas, a Captain of the Eleventh U. S. Infantry and Colonel of the Nineteenth U. S. Colored Troops, to be appointed Brigadier-General of Colored Troops. He is one of the first officers who in the Regular Army sought an appointment in this branch of the service, in which he is reported to have acquitted himself with honor.

"I had occasion to form the acquaintance of Colonel Thomas while he was on staff duty in Massachusetts during the year 1862, where I received an agreeable impression of his fidelity and capacity as a useful and zealous officer."

In 1884 Governor Robie wrote to General Rochester, Paymaster General U. S. A., in regard to a change of station for General Thomas: "I have been long acquainted with

the members of his family in Maine. They are held in high estimation by myself and the citizens of our State and are deserving of great consideration for what they have done for its religious, political, social and material prosperity. I understand from his worthy and venerable father, who is now in advanced years [Mr. Thomas, senior, lived, strong in mind and body, thirteen years after this date], that the General is suffering in his health in consequence of long-continued service in the extreme western portions of our country. I think that it is so. I need not add that his meritorious service in the army, covering over a period of twenty-two years, has won for him the respect and regard of his fellow-citizens; and the earnest wishes in his behalf of his family and many friends, who hold high and honorable positions in Maine, are entitled to consideration. I trust, my dear General, that the application of Paymaster Thomas, when made, may be in the interests of the service and may thereby receive your favorable action." To which application the Paymaster General made a courteous and interested response, suggesting an exchange of stations.

It was not in General Thomas's nature to be idle. From time to time he made trips to Europe for his health and for the intellectual benefits that only such culture can bring. In

January, 1893, he went to Oklahoma City and there took up his residence. With energy and ardor he entered into the life of the new West, where he made many friends. He espoused the cause of single statehood. He became President of the Oklahoma National Bank, President of the Oklahoma City Water Company, Treasurer of the National Loan and Investment Company, and was talked of for Senator in the event of Oklahoma's admission to statehood.

Upon going to Oklahoma he received the following letter from Gen. Benjamin F. Butler:—

To whom it may concern:

Whereas, Gen. Henry G. Thomas, U. S. Army (retired), is about to make his home in the far West, and whereas I alone of his commanding officers (save General Howard, now absent in Europe) survive, and therefore have the necessary personal knowledge in the premises, I therefore wish to speak now as unqualifiedly in the present as I have in the past of his patriotism, skill, courage and ability as an officer and his accomplishments and character as a gentleman. His family, moreover, is equal to that of any in his section and locality.

BENJAMIN F. BUTLER.

An undermining disease, contracted during the war, from which he had been suffering for many years, resulted finally in pneumonia

and extreme prostration. He could not rally at the close of an illness of four months, and at the time of his father's death was too ill to travel. He died January 23, 1897, at Oklahoma, his brother, William W. Thomas, Jr., being with him at the last.

General Thomas left a son, Henry G., and three daughters, Mary L. T., wife of Lieut. William N. Blow, U. S. Army, stationed at Fort Wingate, New Mexico, Louise Webster and Ellen Widgery.

TRIBUTES BY THE PRESS.

The following extracts from the press are appended:—

GEN. H. G. THOMAS, FORMERLY
OF PORTLAND.

Oklahoma City, Jan. 23d. — Gen. H. G. Thomas, of Portland, Me., died here to-day. He owned the Oklahoma City Water Works, and had other large investments in the Territory.

Henry Goddard Thomas, Brigadier and Brevet Major-General, U. S. V., Major, Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel, Colonel and Brigadier-General of the United States Army, was the son of the late Hon. William W. Thomas, Portland's war Mayor. He was graduated from Amherst College in 1858. He entered the army as Captain of Company G, Fifth Maine. He participated in many battles of the war. He was retired July 2, 1891, after a continuous service of thirty years, at his own request, on account of impaired health.

—*Washington (D. C.) Post.*

DID GALLANT SERVICE IN THE WAR.
DEATH OF GENERAL HENRY G. THOMAS,
ANNOUNCED FROM OKLAHOMA.

Portland, Me., Jan. 23, 1897. Gen. Henry G. Thomas, whose death at Oklahoma was announced in a despatch from there to-day, was a son of the late Hon. William W. Thomas, President of the Canal National Bank, who died a few weeks ago, in his 94th year, and a brother of the Hon. William W. Thomas, Jr., ex-Minister to Sweden and Norway.

General Thomas was born in Portland fifty-nine years ago, was graduated from Amherst in 1858, and a few years later was admitted to the bar in this county. At the breaking out of the war he enlisted as a private, Fifth Maine Volunteers, served as captain of that company from June to August, and was then transferred to the Eleventh United States infantry, with rank of captain. After the first battle of Bull Run he was appointed Colonel of the Second U. S. colored regiment, and engaged in the actions of Bristoe, Rappahannock and Mine Run. He then organized the Nineteenth U. S. Colored Regiment and became its Colonel in December, 1863. In February, 1864, he was in command at Camp Birney, Md., and he led a brigade in the Ninth corp, Army of the Potomac, from May to November, 1864, being engaged in the battles of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania and other important engagements. He was made Brigadier-General of Volunteers Nov. 30, 1864, and transferred to the Army of the James. He led a brigade

and division in the Twenty-eighth Corps of that army and temporarily commanded the corps. He received the brevets of Major for gallant service at Spottsylvania, Lieutenant-Colonel for service at Petersburg, and Colonel, Brigadier-General and Major-General for services during the war.

He was honorably mustered out of the volunteer service in 1866, but remained in the U. S. Army as Paymaster, with the rank of Major, for years.

— *Boston Herald.*

A GALLANT OFFICER DEAD.

MAJOR HENRY G. THOMAS PASSES AWAY
AFTER LONG SERVICE.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 25th. — The War Department has received notice of the death of Major Henry G. Thomas, retired, in Oklahoma. Major Thomas, a native of Maine, entered the army in June, 1861, as captain of the Fifth Maine Infantry, and was a Brevet Major-General when he was mustered out as a volunteer in 1866. He maintained his connection with the Regular Army as Major until 1891, when at his request he was retired, having served more than twenty years. He owed his promotions during the war to gallant conduct in the battles of Spottsylvania and Petersburg.

— *San Francisco Call.*

GENERAL HENRY G. THOMAS.

Portland, Me., Jan. 23d (special).—General Henry G. Thomas died to-day in Oklahoma, where he had been ill for some time. He was a son of the late Hon. William W. Thomas, of Portland, and a brother of W. W. Thomas, Jr., ex-Minister to Sweden. General Thomas was fifty-nine years of age. He was born in Portland, and was graduated at Amherst College in 1858, and later admitted to the bar. He enlisted as a private in the Fifth Maine Volunteers in 1861, and was Captain in that regiment from June to August, when he took the same rank in the Eleventh Regular Infantry. He was present at the first battle of Bull Run. Being appointed Colonel of the Second United States Colored Regiment in February, 1863, he was engaged in the actions at Bristoe, Rappahannock and Mine Run, Va. He then organized the Nineteenth Colored Regiment, and became its Colonel in December, 1863. In February, 1864, he was in command at Camp Birney, Md., and he led a brigade in the Ninth Corps, Army of the Potomac, from May to November. He was made Brigadier-General of Volunteers on November 30, 1864, and transferred to the Army of the James. He led a brigade and a division in the Twenty-fifth Corps of that army, and temporarily commanded the corps. He was mustered out of the volunteer service in 1866, but remained in the United States Army as Paymaster, with the rank of Major, for some years. General Thomas was the first regular officer to accept the colonelcy of colored troops.

—*New York Tribune.*

GEN. H. G. THOMAS DEAD.
PASSED AWAY YESTERDAY IN OKLAHOMA CITY.
WAS ONE OF MAINE'S MOST DISTINGUISHED
SOLDIERS IN CIVIL WAR.
HAD ALSO SEEN MANY YEARS OF SERVICE
AGAINST THE INDIANS.

Portland, Me., Jan. 23.—Mr. Elias Thomas, of this city, received a telegram from Hon. William W. Thomas, Jr., this afternoon announcing the death at Oklahoma City of Gen. Henry G. Thomas, U. S. A., retired.

General Thomas had a distinguished military career. He was born in Portland, April 5, 1837, and was a son of the late Hon. William W. Thomas, of this city. He was mustered into the service of the United States May 27, 1861, as Captain of Company G, Fifth Maine Regiment. He was in the first Bull Run battle and was complimented for his coolness and bravery by Col. Mark H. Dunnell. In the same battle he won the applause of Gen. O. O. Howard and was appointed Captain of the Eleventh U. S. Infantry. He received, on the recommendation of Governor Andrew of Massachusetts, a commission as Colonel of a colored regiment, and was the first regular officer to command a regiment of colored troops.

He was made a Brigadier-General December 9, 1864, at the age of twenty-seven. This promotion was given on recommendation of General Burnside for "conspicuous gallantry

before Petersburg." He was given the brevet of colonel and Brigadier-General U. S. A. and Major-General of volunteers for distinguished services through the entire war. General Thomas was in the temporary command of the first division of the Twenty-fifth Corps in 1865, and was later in temporary command of the corps.

He was an officer of the Regular Army after the war and was almost constantly on active duty. He was engaged in service against the Indians and in 1874 removed the Wennebago Indians from Wisconsin.

After thirty years of service General Thomas retired and for some time lived in Portland. He then went to Oklahoma City, where he was extensively engaged in business at the time of his death.

After retiring from the army General Thomas traveled extensively. He visited Sweden and while there was present at a review of the Swedish army, and later wrote a vivid description of that event under the title of "The King and His Men." He also wrote considerable historical matter regarding the war.

During the war General Thomas was almost constantly at the front, and won every promotion by gallant conduct on the field of battle. He was present at the battles of Bull Run, Snicker's Gap, Bristoe, Rappahannock, Brandy Station, Mine Run, all the battles of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Petersburg, the Mine Explosion, Weldon Railroad, Hatcher's Run and the taking of Richmond.

General Thomas was a member of the bar of this county and also of Oklahoma. He

was mentioned for U. S. Senator in the event of the admission of the territory to statehood, and also for the office of Governor of the territory. He was no politician and never sought civil office.

When the news of his illness reached here his brother, Hon. William W. Thomas, Jr., at once went on and was with him when he died. General Thomas was one of the most distinguished of the soldiers of Maine in the civil war.

—*Boston Globe, Jan. 24.*

GENERAL THOMAS DEAD.

CLOSE OF THE LIFE OF A DISTINGUISHED SOLDIER AND CIVILIAN.

A special to The Leader yesterday announced the demise of Gen. Henry G. Thomas, at Oklahoma City, at an early hour yesterday morning. The announcement will create surprise and cause regret to hundreds of people in the territory who were intimately acquainted with the distinguished veteran and who respected and loved him. The end was peaceful and serene.

General Thomas was aged fifty-nine years, and came to Oklahoma four years ago. He located at Oklahoma City and became closely identified with its business interests. He was President of the Oklahoma City Water Works and was interested in other public institutions. General Thomas was every inch a gentleman. He served with distinction in the war, where

he won his title. A brother of the deceased, Hon. W. W. Thomas, Jr., was at his bedside during his last hours. The funeral will take place at 2 o'clock this afternoon from the Presbyterian Church at Oklahoma City. It will be conducted by Colonel Stiles and a battalion of the First Regiment, O. N. G. After the service the remains will be taken to the depot under military escort, and the body will be sent to Portland, Maine, the old home of the deceased, for interment. Governor Renfrow and staff officers, Colonel Huston, Major Jennison, Major Niblack and Captain Delaney, Captain Barnes and others will attend the funeral from this city. Company A, O. N. G., and the regimental band will leave on the noon train to take part in the obsequies.

—*Guthrie, O. T., Daily Leader, Jan. 24.*

HENRY GODDARD THOMAS.

News of the death of Gen. H. G. Thomas was received in this city Saturday afternoon. General Thomas has been an ailing man for many years, his infirmities dating back to the closing days of the civil war, in which he took so conspicuous a part.

It is superfluous to mention General Thomas's military record, known to all; it is needless to say anything about his ancestry in the city his ancestors have helped to build, and where his kinspeople dwell to-day honored amid troops of friends.

General Thomas was fifty-nine years old. He was born in this city and was graduated at

Amherst College in 1858, and was later admitted to the bar.

General Thomas enlisted as a private in the Fifth Maine Volunteers in 1861, and was Captain in that regiment from June to August, when he was given the same rank in the Eleventh Regular Infantry.

He was present at the first battle of Bull Run and was appointed Colonel of the Second U. S. Colored Regiment in February, 1863, and engaged in the actions of Bristoe Station, Rappahannock Station and Mine Run, Virginia. He then organized the Nineteenth U. S. Colored Regiment and became its Colonel December, 1863.

In February, 1864, he was in command at Camp Birney, Maryland, and he led a brigade in the Ninth Corps, Army of the Potomac, from May to November, 1864, being engaged in the battles of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania and other important engagements.

He was made Brigadier-General of Volunteers November 30, 1864, and transferred to the Army of the James. He led a brigade and division in the Twenty-fifth Corps of that army and temporarily commanded the corps.

During the war he received the brevets of Major for gallant service at Spottsylvania; Lieutenant-Colonel for services at Petersburg; and Colonel, Brigadier-General and Major-General for services during the war.

He was honorably mustered out of the volunteer service in 1866, but remained in the United States Army as Paymaster, with the rank of Major, for many years, being retired in 1891.

The immediate cause of General Thomas's death was pneumonia, though he has been on a sick-bed since September. A week ago Saturday his brother, Hon. W. W. Thomas, Jr., heard of his dangerous illness and hastened to his bedside, reaching Oklahoma last Monday.

The funeral took place in Oklahoma yesterday and the body will be brought to Portland for interment the coming Wednesday.

—*Argus*, Jan. 25.

MILITARY FUNERAL SERVICE
AT OKLAHOMA CITY.

GENERAL THOMAS DEAD.

AT 6.30 YESTERDAY MORNING GENERAL
THOMAS BREATHED HIS LAST.

A MILITARY FUNERAL TO-DAY.

AT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH REV. MR. HAWLEY
WILL DELIVER THE FUNERAL ADDRESS.

Yesterday morning at 6.30 Gen. Henry G. Thomas breathed his last, after a long illness. The funeral will take place to-day at 2 P. M. at the Presbyterian Church.

The funeral will be military and will be conducted by the First Regiment, Oklahoma National Guards and the sermon will be preached by Rev. Mr. Hawley. The First Regiment band will also attend. His remains will be taken to Portland, Me., for burial.

General Thomas spent the summer in Europe, returning to Oklahoma City in November.

General Thomas had been ill for some time, but about a week ago, his doctors fearing his illness might prove fatal, telegraphed his relatives in Maine and his brother, Hon. W. W. Thomas, Jr., immediately came on.

General Thomas has been a great aid in the upbuilding of Oklahoma, having invested as largely in Oklahoma City enterprises as any other single individual. Aside from his death being a blow to the city financially, the

poor of the city will feel his death keenly. In his bosom beat a most kindly, charitable heart and many a poor family will mourn his death. As an instance of his charity, a few days before Christmas he had a thorough canvass made of the needy of the city and Christmas eve every destitute family in the city was bountifully provided for at General Thomas's expense.

General Thomas was a distinguished member of a prominent family. His father, Hon. William W. Thomas, was the war mayor of Portland, Me., his brother, W. W. Thomas, Jr., has been twice minister to Sweden and speaker of the Maine House of Representatives, and his ancestors were among the first colonists of New England.

His title of General was earned, not assumed. He served nineteen years of military service, four years in the rebellion. At the age of twenty-seven he received and earned the title of General for bravery in battle.

—*Daily Oklahoman*, Jan. 24.

AN IMPOSING FUNERAL.

GOVERNOR RENFROW AND STAFF, COMPANIES
A AND C, FIRST REGIMENT, AND REGI-
MENTAL BAND ATTEND GENERAL
THOMAS'S FUNERAL.

The military funeral of Gen. Henry G. Thomas, Sunday, was a most sad and imposing one. The weather was very inclement and prevented many from attending. The

bitterly cold wind, the frozen streets and the strict discipline of the marching troops all seemed to be allegorical of the rugged life and death of a brave soldier and a gallant defender of his country.

Governor Renfrow and his staff, Company A, First Regiment, O. N. G., and the First Regiment Band arrived from Guthrie at 1.30 o'clock and shortly afterwards formed in line at the armory, where they were joined by Company C of this city, and under the command of Colonel Stiles were marched to the corner of Main and Robinson streets, where the funeral procession was formed as follows:

First Regiment Band.

Company C, O. N. G., Captain Overholser, commanding.

Company A, O. N. G., Lieutenant Brewer, commanding.

Gun carriage bearing the casket, which was wrapped in the flag, and the sword of the dead soldier lying across the casket. On each side of the casket marched the pall-bearers, Col. J. H. Wheeler, Lieut.-Col. R. B. Huston, Maj. Leslie G. Niblack and Capt. L. R. Delaney of the Governor's staff; Capt. C. A. Barnes, Company A, First Regiment, O. N. G.; First Lieut. A. W. Dunham, Company G, First Regiment, O. N. G.

The riding horse of General Thomas. Carriage containing Hon. W. W. Thomas, Jr., brother of the deceased, and Governor Renfrow.

The procession marched to the Presbyterian Church, where short but impressive services were held, conducted by the Rev. Mr. Francis.

After the services, the procession, headed by the band playing a beautiful funeral march, wended its way down the frozen streets to the Santa Fe depot, where the body of the gallant soldier was sent to Portland, Me., its last resting place.

—*Daily Oklahoman*, Jan. 26.

FURTHER PRESS NOTICES.

CIVIL AND MILITARY CAREER OF GENERAL
THOMAS.

Portland, Me., Jan. 30. — The announcement of the death of Gen. Henry G. Thomas took his friends here outside of his immediate family almost completely by surprise. While he had been for some years a resident of the West, General Thomas came here every season and never lost his interest in his native city.

A Major-General at twenty-seven, his military career was remarkably brilliant. He was in the Regular Army, of which he was a retired officer at the time of his death.

Warm hearted and generous to a fault, brave, it was said, to rashness, he was the very ideal of a dashing soldier.

He was here the past summer, but was far from well at that time. He showed a deep interest in political affairs, but even then he may have understood that he was fighting his last battle and that it must be a losing one.

He had as a soldier the confidence of his commanding officers, and every promotion he received was given him for services on the field of battle. He was rapidly promoted, but his advance was due to his own efforts.

He was known here simply as a brilliant soldier, but in the West he showed that he had in him the material of which great business men are made. There he succeeded in

pushing many lines of business and made them pay. His brother, Hon. W. W. Thomas, Jr., was with him when he died.

—*Boston Globe.*

DEATH OF GEN. HENRY G. THOMAS IN
OKLAHOMA.

News of the death of Gen. H. G. Thomas was received in this city yesterday afternoon.

It is superfluous to mention General Thomas's military record, and it is not necessary to speak of his ancestry in a city where his kinspeople dwell to-day honored and respected.

Henry Thomas was one of those boys, fresh from collegiate life, who rallied to the defense of the Union at the first call to arms. Just graduated from Amherst and entering upon the study of the law, he responded to his country's call when Lincoln appealed to the patriotism and manhood of the North. Enlisting in that grand old fighting regiment, the Fifth Maine, as a private he came out of the conflict with the straps of a Major-General upon his shapely shoulders. He had the courage to take command of a colored regiment when the negro was almost as much a subject of ridicule at the North as at the South, and he conducted those swarthy and stalwart fellows through many a hard-fought battle. For his meritorious services he was given a commission in the Regular Army, and remained in the service until placed on the retired list. After that he went to the newly

created territory of Oklahoma, and was one of the makers of that new land.

General Thomas was fifty-nine years old. He was born in this city, and was graduated at Amherst College in 1858, and was later admitted to the bar.

He enlisted as a private in the Fifth Maine Volunteers in 1861, and was Captain in that regiment from June to August, when he was given the same rank in the Eleventh Regular Infantry.

He was present at the first battle of Bull Run and was appointed Colonel of the Second U. S. Colored Regiment in February, 1863, and engaged in the actions at Bristoe Station, Rappahannock Station and Mine Run, Virginia. He then organized the Nineteenth U. S. Colored Regiment and became its Colonel December, 1863.

In February, 1864, he was in command at Camp Birney, Maryland, and he led a brigade in the Ninth Corps, Army of the Potomac, from May to November, 1864, being engaged in the battles of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania and other important engagements.

He was made Brigadier-General of Volunteers November 30, 1864, and transferred to the Army of the James. He led a brigade and division in the Twenty-fifth Corps of that army, and temporarily commanded the corps.

During the war he received the brevets of Major for gallant service at Spottsylvania; Lieutenant-Colonel for services at Petersburg; and Colonel, Brigadier-General and Major-General for services during the war.

He was honorably mustered out of the vol-

unteer service in 1866, but remained in the U. S. Army as Paymaster, with the rank of Major, for many years.

The immediate cause of General Thomas's death was pneumonia, though he has been on a sick-bed since September. A week ago yesterday his brother, Hon. W. W. Thomas, Jr., heard of his dangerous illness and hastened to his bedside, reaching Oklahoma last Monday.

The funeral takes place in Oklahoma to-day, and the body will be brought to Portland for interment the coming Wednesday.

—*Sunday Times, Jan. 24.*

OBSEQUIES AT PORTLAND.

MEMORIAL ADDRESS BY
REV. ROLLIN T. HACK.

GRAND ARMY BURIAL SERVICE.

FUNERAL OF GENERAL THOMAS.
SERVICES AT HIS HOME.
ADDRESS DELIVERED BY REV. R. T. HACK,
OF THE SECOND PARISH.

The funeral of the late General Henry G. Thomas took place from the homestead on Danforth Street yesterday afternoon. A large number of old friends of the family and of the deceased gathered to pay the last tribute to his memory. Delegations were in attendance from the military order of the Loyal Legion, the Fifth Maine Regiment Association, and Bosworth Post, No. 2, G. A. R., of which organizations General Thomas had been a member. Among the men prominent in the late war and in the councils of the state who were present were Ex-Governor and General Joshua Chamberlain, Ex-Governor and Colonel Robie, Major-General Francis Fessenden, U. S. A., retired, Captain Rogers, Second Artillery, U. S. A., Col. H. R. Millett, Fifth Maine Volunteer Infantry, Ex-Mayor and Maj. H. S. Melcher, Twentieth Maine Volunteer Infantry, Capt. George E. Brown, Fifth Maine Volunteer Infantry, Rev. and Maj. H. S. Budge, Maj. W. H. Green, Maine Volunteer Infantry, U. S. District Attorney and Col. Albert W. Bradbury, Capt. George W. Verrill, Seventeenth Maine Volunteer Infantry, Gen.

Charles P. Mattocks, U. S. Volunteers, Maj. Charles H. Boyd, late of the U. S. Coast Survey, Hon. George F. Emery, Hon. Byron D. Verrill, Capt. George F. French, Docter Shannon and Mr. Noyes of Saco, Messrs. Bailey and Somerby, directors of the Canal National Bank, Messrs. Fritz H. Jordan, E. M. Rand, Esq., Charles E. Marwick and others.

The casket was placed in the front parlor, draped with the American flag and literally buried in choice flowers, among which were a beautiful wreath from the Loyal Legion and a maltese cross from the Fifth Maine Association. The form of the deceased was attired in the uniform of his full rank.

The services commenced with the singing of the beautiful hymn, "Gathering Home," by the Second Parish choir, after which Rev. Mr. Hack, pastor of the Second Parish, read a selection from Scripture. The choir then sang "A Charge to Keep I Have," after which Mr. Hack spoke as follows:—

Friends, we gather to pay the last honors to a soldier. I did not know General Thomas; but he was one of those men who at the first call sprang to the defense of his country. The rumble of war has been lost in the distance of years. To a whole generation it is but a tradition—a tradition kept alive by monuments and memorial services, by a little study of history and by the sacred memories of a dear one who gave his life for his country.

We are being educated in these days to look upon war as unspeakably horrible and brutal and wicked. Great hearts have so felt ever since at least the prophet Isaiah declared

that the "armor of the armed man in the fray and the garments rolled in blood shall ever be for burning, for fuel of fire."

But we are in danger of forgetting that war may be unspeakably glorious, a chastisement but also a purification, a discipline but a crowning as well. Such was our civil war, the saddest and costliest known, but inevitable, and glorious in that wrongs were righted and a nation burst its own bonds of guilty peace and indifference to the right and also struck the shackles of slavery from millions of men and women. Such was the war General Thomas entered. He enlisted among the first and was appointed Captain of Company G, Fifth Maine. At Bull Run the whole country learned that there was to be no holiday excursion, and here Captain Thomas, a young man of twenty-four, was complimented for his "coolness and bravery," and entered upon a career of daring and valor that led to a steady advancement in rank and honors. It has been well said that his title of General was earned, not assumed.

He was the first regular officer to command a colored regiment, being made Colonel of the Seventy-ninth U. S. Colored Infantry in March, 1863, and not quite two years later receiving the rank of Brigadier-General for conspicuous gallantry before Petersburg. It was at Petersburg that General Thomas charged with his troops through the "crater," up the slope beyond, against the enemy's breastworks, where they were met by so terrific a fire that only a handful of men came out alive from that "hell" of fire and slaugh-

ter. Through all the Wilderness campaign he was present, having a part in those battles that wasted our troops like snow under an April sun. A list of the battles in which General Thomas was engaged shows how almost continuously he was at the front during the war. The strain of such service, the privations that attended the life of a soldier wrought their inevitable result. In those five years were laid the foundations of that disease which ended his life at the age of fifty-nine. He came of a long-lived stock and he might well have looked forward to his more than three-score and ten years. But the truth is men who served their five years in the war and came out alive had forfeited from ten to thirty years of their normal lifetime.

Honors earned are worth everything, but we in these days of peace sometimes forget what we owe the men who bought and conquered peace with honor, for us and our children. And we sometimes forget the price that the soldier paid, the abiding penalty that was exacted from him through all his years of strength, for those years of strength were too often years of "labor and sorrow," because the war was war, and sowed its dragon teeth of trouble and disease.

I do not speak of those things simply to glorify the memory of General Thomas, but to recall to your minds the debt we owe the men who put their years, their life, into the crucible of patriotism that there might come out the divine products, peace and liberty. To me the empty sleeve, the halting step, the bent form of the soldier are sacred, and we

should enshrine in our hearts their memories, and tell over fondly their names that the cause for which they gave themselves may not perish from among us.

In 1866 General Thomas was mustered out as brevet Brigadier-General in the Regular Army and brevet Major-General of the U. S. Volunteers. Within a few months he was in service with the Regular Army, and for about a quarter of a century served in the West. During that period he removed a tribe of Indians, the Wennebagoes, from Wisconsin to their new reservation, and was engaged in the most difficult and trying of all services, that against the Indians. In 1878 he was transferred to the pay department, and after thirty years of constant service retired from the army.

Of his travels abroad, of his intellectual abilities and personal qualities, I cannot speak except in another's words.

Says one: "Music was his delight, and he played and sang with deep insight into the science. He wielded a brilliant pen, as witness his *Century* articles and other publications. His wit in portraying character showed him to possess something of the actor's dramatic ability. These gifts made him very companionable."

The last years of his life were spent in Oklahoma City, where he was prominent in business affairs. The end came when he was thirty-four years younger than his venerable father, whom we gathered to mourn and remember so few weeks ago. In the midst of what was really his last sickness he rallied and was able to be about for a few weeks.

It was during this period, just before Christmas, in memory of his father and in gratitude for his partial recovery, that he did a deed of such wide and sweet charity as to make his name cherished in a hundred homes in Oklahoma. Not satisfied with a few families to minister to, he advertised for the names of the worthy poor, and personally investigated all cases, sending to all the needy a generous supply of good things for Christmas. And one remembers with Horace Mann that "to pity distress is human, but to relieve it is godlike."

But the disease that had been upon him for so many years was not to be stayed, and he was suddenly prostrated and died January 23, 1897.

In the last days of his life he had the comfort of the presence of a brother, and his last intelligible utterance was to repeat the words of that hymn, doubtless connected with his boyhood days, made dear by many memories:

"A charge to keep I have,
A God to glorify;
A never-dying soul to save,
And fit it for the sky."

At the close of the address Mr. Hack offered prayer, and the choir sang "Jerusalem the Golden." Then Commander Ellis and Chaplain Samson of Bosworth Post performed the beautiful burial service of the Grand Army. Mr. Hack offered the benediction, and the services were concluded.

After the services a detail from the battery of U. S. Artillery stationed at Fort Preble bore the casket to the hearse and the remains

were taken to Evergreen for interment. The pall-bearers were Gen. Francis Fessenden, Adj. Edward M. Rand, Maj. H. S. Burrage and Captain Rogers, representing the Loyal Legion ; Col. W. H. Millett and Capt. George E. Brown, representing the Fifth Maine Association ; Maj. H. S. Melcher and Maj. W. S. Green, representing Bosworth Post, G. A. R.

— *Press, January 30th.*

LATER CONTRIBUTIONS.

THE LATE HENRY G. THOMAS.

Portland, Me.—“He was my friend” was the thought of hundreds here when the death of Gen. H. G. Thomas, U. S. A., retired, was announced last Saturday afternoon. Somehow it was simply impossible to know General Thomas without liking him, and there was something about the man that made other men cling to him as to a friend.

A more original man never lived. He blazed for himself his own path through this world and followed it persistently. His brilliant intellect was not made to go in any groove, no matter how smooth it might be. He loved the dash and storm of the battle field. He was a born fighter. His first battle showed that the soldier element was strong in him, and after his own command had been cut down to a few men, his commanding officer found that he had reformed a broken line, and that men of many regiments were facing the enemy under the leadership of the young captain. From that time forward he was a marked man, a soldier to be remembered and to be promoted. He loved to be at the front and never wanted to be detached for other duty.

He was one of the very few officers for whom the late General Butler had a really hearty liking. The old soldier knew that

the young general was devoted to him, and he fully appreciated the depth and value of his friendship. To the end of the life of General Butler the two generals met frequently, and the younger man who was in the West when General Butler died paid a fine tribute to his memory.

General Thomas was for many years after the war in the Regular Army, and in fact had almost thirty years of army life to his credit. He did some notable things, for instance being the first regular officer to command a regiment of colored troops. He was then but little more than twenty-five, but to his great surprise and not a little to his disgust found that his men called him "the old Colonel," having reference to his rank rather than to his age.

He saw much of frontier post life. Unlike his brother, Hon. William W. Thomas, Jr., he took little or no part in politics, but he was a remarkably well-informed man, and after his removal to the West was a frequent and always welcome speaker.

The remains of General Thomas were buried here Friday with military honors. He will be long remembered not only by those who knew him in the army, but by many who will cherish his memory as that of a good friend as well as a gallant soldier.

It was very like the man that at Christmas time, after he had made a temporary recovery from his sickness, in gratitude for that recovery and as a memorial of his father, the late Hon. William W. Thomas, he advertised for cases of destitution and helped hundreds to have a bright Christmas.

There might, very properly it would seem, be a movement to place the portraits of the late Major-General Beal and the late Major-General Thomas in the state house. Maine would then pay at least a tribute of respect to two of the distinguished soldiers of the late war.

—*Bangor Daily Commercial.*

The death of Gen. Henry G. Thomas, coming so soon after the death of his honored father, Hon. William W. Thomas, gave to his native city a touch of sadness. His funeral, yesterday, was attended by a large delegation of military men, who had fought under his leadership and knew his worth. General Thomas had a brusque manner, but his heart overflowed with love and kindness.

—*New York Herald.*

THE LATE GENERAL THOMAS.

The late Gen. Henry G. Thomas was more than a brave and distinguished soldier of the late war, he was more than the faithful servant of his country on the frontier, he was a good friend and a warm-hearted gentleman.

General Thomas was a member of a very notable family. His father, the late Hon. William W. Thomas, was a man of weight in the community and one who always led onward; he was a born leader of men and was especially fortunate in his sons. Mr. Thomas's

sons now living are William Widgery, Jr., ex-Minister to Sweden and Norway, and Elias Thomas, of Portland, Maine.

Gen. Henry G. Thomas was one of the first to respond to the call of President Lincoln and he remained at his post until the last gun was fired. He passed rapidly from position to position, but his honors were won by hard and brilliant service on the field of battle. He was one of the most distinguished of the soldiers of the Union at the time of his death, and will be long remembered by his former comrades.

With the close of the war he re-entered the Regular Army and saw much and hard service on the frontier. He was no fair-weather soldier, but took whatever hard service fell to his lot. He removed a tribe of Indians to a new reservation, and discharged that extremely difficult duty in a masterly manner.

In his later years he was a resident of a western city, and there showed that he possessed to a very marked degree the family ability and business acuteness. He made his mark there as he always had before in any field of labor to which he was called, and was a power not only in a business sense, but socially and politically. He did more than invest money with good judgment, he became of decided benefit to the poor of that frontier city.

There never was a kinder heart than that of the old soldier who seemed to many to be so rough and almost harsh. Before the writer of this poor tribute to his honored memory is an Indian corn basket, a well-made, but still far from valuable, affair. It was for a long

time the property of General Thomas, and connected with it is a story reflecting the highest credit on him.

While stationed on the frontier he in some way discovered that a family living in a dug-out, a poor little place half below, half above, the ground, was in desperate need. The poor people were astonished when the General called. He found them almost starving, their sole provision a little meal.

General Thomas was then far from being a rich man and there were many demands on his money, but he did not hesitate. To help them he gave up without the slightest hesitation the many little things he loved and to which he was accustomed. If other officers half laughed at him he didn't mind it in the least; that poor family, thanks to him, were hungry and cold no more that winter.

And the kindness of the General did not stop there. He helped the farmer along until he had raised a crop, and then accepted the one thing the grateful family had to offer him, the Indian basket, in which he found the youngest child of the family cradled when he paid them his first visit.

And that act was in keeping with his life. Outwardly careless and indifferent, as a matter of fact he tried to do good and succeeded. The poor of the frontier city where he made his home knew and blessed him. He flattered no man. To him the man was everything, the rank nothing. Once, and once only, did the public know of one of his numberless acts of kindness. When unable to be out, he was forced to advertise for information of cases of want.

And so the brilliant soldier, the good man of business, the careful and prudent investor, the kindly giver, the distinguished citizen of two sections of his country and the defender of the Union, rests from his labors. His battles are over; his travels ended. Maine received back the soldier she gave to the Union, and here his memory will be cherished.

“O, never bore his ancient state
A truer son or braver.”

He took command of a regiment of colored troops when Jefferson Davis had proclaimed that the commander of colored troops if captured would be instantly executed. That act struck the key-note of his life. He believed that it was his duty to render that service to his country and he never thought of any possible danger to himself. He received his every promotion for service on the field, and it is not too much to say that his brave battle for life during his last year deserved the last and final promotion, the rest to which the war-worn soldier has passed.

—*Northern Plaindealer.*

MAJOR-GENERAL THOMAS.

HIS RECENT DEATH IN OKLAHOMA CITY
RECALLS HIS GREAT SERVICES.

One by one the heroes of the late war are passing away, and in a few years, at the most, but few of the distinguished leaders will remain. There recently died in Oklahoma City a man who played a distinguished part

during the war, and who during thirty eventful years was in the military service of his country.

General Henry G. Thomas was born in Portland, Me., and was a son of the late Hon. W. W. Thomas, who died at the age of ninety-four. General Thomas came of good fighting stock, Revolutionary stock in fact.

The war found him, as it found many others, ready for almost anything except the camp and the battle-field, but he said at once, "I must do what I can." He was commissioned a Captain, and saw his first actual fighting at Bull Run. There the future general was found, after the retreat began, doing his best to reform a line and to lead his men against the enemy.

Assigned to temporary duty at the North, and then promoted to the Regular Army, he was offered the command of a regiment of colored troops. The service was a very dangerous one. Capture would have been followed by death, the Confederate Government having outlawed all officers of colored regiments. The offered commission was accepted by Colonel Thomas, who felt that he ought to take whatever risk there might be in that special line of duty. He was the first officer of the Regular Army to accept the command of a regiment of colored troops.

His career was remarkable in many respects. He was for the most part at the front while the war lasted. He was given the brevet rank of Major for gallant service in the battle of Spottsylvania, brevet Lieutenant-Colonel for gallant services in front of Petersburg,

Colonel and Brigadier-General, U. S. A., and Major-General of Volunteers for gallant services during the entire war.

General Thomas had temporary command of a corps, and is survived by but a single man who ever gave him an order, Maj.-Gen. O. O. Howard, U. S. A., retired.

General Thomas served with General Butler, and won the confidence of that distinguished commander by his gallant services. General Thomas was a fighting officer and a man after General Butler's own heart.

After the war he was able to render many and distinguished services to the country on the frontier. To him was assigned the delicate duty of removing an entire tribe of Indians to their new reservation. He retired from the army after a service of thirty years.

In civil life he was active and during his latter years prominent. He was a man of generous nature, and his last act before his fatal illness was to make Christmas a bright day for many poor people.

He was a soldier by nature, rather than education. He served through the war without once asking to be allowed to leave his command, and was almost constantly at the front. His military record was surpassed by few if any officers of his rank.

—*From Pennsylvania Grit, Williamsport, Penn.*

General Henry Goddard Thomas, U. S. A., retired, who died at Oklahoma City, O. T., Jan. 23d, had a distinguished record of ser-

vice. He went to the front in June, 1861, as Captain of the Fifth Maine Infantry, and soon afterwards was appointed Captain of the Eleventh U. S. Infantry. He was successively Colonel of the Seventy-ninth and Nineteenth U. S. Colored Infantry and in November, 1864, was appointed Brigadier-General of Volunteers. On the reorganization of the Army, in 1866, he declined the appointment of Major, Forty-first U. S. Infantry, was transferred to the Twentieth U. S. Infantry, promoted Major, Fourth U. S. Infantry, 1876, transferred to the Pay Department in 1878, and retired at his own request in 1891. General Thomas held brevets for gallantry from Major to Brigadier-General in the Regular Army, and Major-General of Volunteers. He had large business interests in Oklahoma Territory, where he was well known and highly respected.

—*Army and Navy Journal*, N. Y. City, January 30th.

The regular March meeting of the Maine Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States was held last evening at the Falmouth Hotel. In many respects this meeting was the most interesting and notable that the commandery has ever held. Nearly sixty members of the order were present.

The following casualties were reported: Died in Norway, December 11, 1896, Companion George Lafayette Beal, late Brigadier-General and brevet Major-General, U. S. V.

Died in Oklahoma City, January 23, 1897,
Companion Henry G. Thomas, late Major
and Paymaster; brevet Brigadier-General, U.
S. A.; late Brigadier-General and brevet
Major-General, U. S. V.

A paper in memory of the late General
Thomas was presented by General Francis
Fessenden.

—*Portland Press.*

IN MEMORIAM—LOYAL LEGION.

**Military Order of the
Loyal Legion of the United States,
Commandery of the State of Maine.**

In Memoriam.

HENRY GODDARD THOMAS,

Late Major and Paymaster;
Bvt. Brig.-Gen., U. S. A.;
Brig.-General and
Bvt. Major-General, U. S. V.

MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES.

Headquarters Commandery of the State of Maine.

CIRCULAR No. 3.
SERIES OF 1897.
WHOLE NUMBER 141.

Portland, March 6, 1897.

The following tribute to the memory of

Companion Henry Goddard Thomas,

*late Major and Paymaster; Bvt. Brig.-General U. S. A.; Brig.-General and Bvt. Maj.-General U. S. V.,
was read and adopted at a stated meeting of this Com-
mandery, March 3, 1897:*

THE committee appointed to prepare a memorial for Brevet Major-General Henry Goddard Thomas, United States Volunteers, and a companion of this Commandery, submit the following:—

Brevet Major-General Henry Goddard Thomas, United States Volunteers, a Major and Brevet Brigadier-General in the Army of the United States, died in Oklahoma City, January 23, 1897.

General Thomas was born in Portland, Maine, on the 5th of April, 1837. He was graduated from Amherst College in 1858, and was preparing for the legal profession when the breaking out of the Rebellion in 1861 impelled him to volunteer for the defense of the Union. In a few days he raised a company, and on the 24th of June, 1861, was mustered into the United States service as Captain in the 5th Maine Infantry. He commanded his company at Bull Run, the first great battle of the civil war. Heintzelman's division, in which he served, bore the heaviest loss on that historic day, and Captain Thomas was officially reported "to have discharged his duties with marked courage and self-possession." For his conduct in this battle, he was, on

the recommendation of General Howard, his brigade commander, appointed, in August, 1861, a Captain in the United States Army. During the autumn of 1861 and the year 1862 he was employed on recruiting service and in mustering and disbursing duty. The government having decided to employ colored regiments, Captain Thomas at once applied for service with these troops, and in March, 1863, was appointed Colonel of the 79th United States Colored Infantry. With this regiment he proceeded to the Department of the Gulf, where he was prostrated by diseases of the climate and, having been ordered North on sick leave, was, at his own request, mustered out of this service on July 11, 1863. Recovering his health, he took command of his company, in the 11th United States Infantry, at Culpepper, Virginia, and was present in the actions of Snicker's Gap, Bristoe, Rappahannock, Brandy Station and Mine Run. The government again assigned him to service with the colored troops, and in January, 1864, he was appointed Colonel of the 19th United States Colored Infantry. He passed the winter of 1864 in organizing and drilling a brigade of colored infantry near Baltimore, Maryland. With this brigade he joined Burnside's 9th Corps in April. In the extraordinary campaign of 1864-65, under General Grant, Colonel Thomas commanded the 2d brigade of the 4th division in the 9th Corps, and subsequently the 1st brigade of the 1st division in the 25th Corps, participating in the great battles of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Petersburg, the Explosion of the Mine, the Weldon Railroad, Hatcher's Run and the capture of Richmond. He was promoted to Brigadier-General of Volunteers on November 30, 1864, on the recommendation of General Burnside, "for his uniform good conduct, and particularly his conspicuous gallantry on July 30, 1864, before Petersburg." In the Regular Army he received the brevet of Major for gallant and meritorious services at Spottsylvania, the brevet of Lieutenant-Colonel for gallant and meritorious services in front of Petersburg, and the brevets of Colonel and Brigadier-General for gallant and meritorious services during the war. For gallant and meritorious services during the war he was also brevetted a Major-General of Volunteers. On the reorganization of the Army in 1866 he was appointed a Major, which he declined, as his new regiment was in the Gulf, the climate of which was fatal to him. For the next ten years he served as a Captain, with varied duty, on recruiting service, in the Freedmen's Bureau, and with his regiment at different posts on the frontier. He became a Major of the 4th United States Infantry in 1876, and in 1878 was trans-

ferred to the Pay Department, serving for six years as Paymaster throughout the Western territories.

A severe and chronic disease, caused by his long and arduous service, having developed in 1884 to an extent which prevented active duty, he went on sick leave, and afterwards, on his own application, was placed on the retired list of the Army. Having taken up his residence in Oklahoma, he became a leading citizen of the territory, engaged in the development of the city, and was prominent in many enterprises. His disease constantly advanced and finally undermined his powerful constitution, causing his death. An impressive funeral marked his obsequies.

General Thomas became a companion of the Order of the Loyal Legion soon after its organization. He was one of the charter members of the Maine Commandery, assisting at its first meeting and first election. His distinguished service needs no eulogy. It is part of his country's history and stands among the honored records in this commandery.

FRANCIS FESSENDEN,
HENRY R. MILLETT, } *Committee.*
J. H. KNIGHT.

By order of

PAYMASTER WILLIAM H. ANDERSON, U. S. N.,
COMMANDER.

HENRY S. BURRAGE,
BVT. MAJOR, U. S. V.,
RECORDER.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS.

638 West End Ave.,
New York City, Jan. 27, 1897.

Dear Friends:—The papers announce the death at Oklahoma City of Gen. Henry G. Thomas. Another brave soldier of the Rebellion has answered the last roll-call and reported for duty in the great army above.

It was my pleasure to serve with the General when it took moral as well as physical courage to command colored troops. The Confederacy had issued orders not to treat officers of colored troops as prisoners of war if captured, but to shoot them down.

The General was gallant, courteous and loyal, a brave soldier, a staunch friend, who will ever be missed by those who knew him best.

Sincerely yours,
LOUIS E. GRANGER.

From PARKER PILLSBURY, of Concord.

What a sudden summons that must have been to General Thomas. He seemed born and fitted for, and suited to, a brave, even a heroic, life. And such, too, was his life, it seems, while it lasted. Nobody ever told me how bravely he stood forth as the champion of my colored clientele, and that too when

the rebel forces had outlawed him and all his fellow officers *if taken prisoners while in command of colored troops*. But, fortunately, I think none such were ever so taken.

From MR. GEORGE E. BROWN, Fifth Maine Regiment Association.

Allow me to extend to you and all the members of your family the heartfelt sympathy of the survivors of the Fifth Maine Regiment Association.

We shall ever treasure the memory of our dearest comrade, General Henry G. Thomas, as one of our best and bravest members.

“We shall meet but we shall miss him,
There will be one vacant chair.”

From MR. J. E. M. WHITNEY, Montreal.

This morning I received the Portland papers announcing the death of the General. I could not realize it. I cannot even now imagine that he has really gone over to the great majority.

How well I remember him when he spent the day here on his way to England. I met him at the station and was with him till he sailed. What marvelous conversational powers, how brilliant and how intellectual! One man in ten thousand. A marked man wherever he went.

To show how kind and thoughtful he was, he went to the florist soon after his arrival, before attending to business, although he had a great many things to do, and selected a large bouquet of roses for my mother, with whom we lunched.

We called upon my friend, Colonel Houghton, and we then went on board one of the war ships. It is needless to say that the British naval officers had seldom if ever before had the privilege and pleasure of meeting so distinguished a character as the General.

EXTRACTS FROM ARMY REGISTER,
1895.

RETIRED FROM ACTIVE SERVICE.

(LIMITED LIST).

Name, grade, date of rank or commission, highest superior brevet rank, and cause of retirement.	Service in the Army.		Born in.	Appointed from.
	In volunteers, with highest brevet rank beyond lineal commission.	In permanent establishment.		
<i>Maiores.</i>				
Thomas, Henry G. 22 oct. 76 Bvt. Brig. Gen. Mar. 13, 65 At his own request, having served over 20 years. (act July 3, 84).	capt. 5 Me. inf. 24 june, 61 hon. must. out. 26 aug. col. 79 U.S. c. inf. 20 mar. 63 hon. must. out. 11 july. col. 19 U.S. c. inf. 16 jan. 64 brig. gen. 30 nov. accepted, 9 dec. bvt. maj. gen. 13 mar. 65 hon. must. out. 15 jan. 65	capt. 11 inf. 5 aug. 61 accepted, 24 aug. maj. 41 inf. [d'clin'd] 28 july, 66 trs. to to 20 inf. 21 sept. maj. 4 inf. 22 oct. 76 trs. to pay dept. 23 may, 78 retired, 2 july, 91	Me	Me.

BREVET COMMISSIONS.

Brevet rank.	Service for which brevetted.
maj..... 12 may, 64 lt. col..... 20 july, col..... 13 mar. 65 brig. gen. 13 mar. maj. gen. vol 13 mar.	Gallant and meritorious services in the battle of Spottsylvania, Virginia. Gallant and meritorious services in front of Petersburg, Virginia. Gallant and meritorious services during the war.

